Compiled Themes with Supporting Information by Group

In the summer of 2003 the Planning, Economic Development, and Environmental Advisory commissions met to kick off the Town Plan rewrite by discussing their desires for the future of the town. Later in the summer and throughout the fall, the Planning Commission sponsored a series of public meetings, including five sector meetings and four visioning session meetings, to gather the same information from the general public. Planning staff also held a number of sessions with students at Heritage High School and collected citizens' emails in response to information on the Town Plan webpage. A thorough review of all of those comments and the patterns found of those most prevalent yielded the themes listed below. Following each theme are examples of supporting citizen comments, along with related goals and policies of the 1997 Town Plan. These themes were reviewed and accepted by the three commissions and members of the public attending a meeting on 17 June 2004.

Group 1—Land Use

1. <u>Theme:</u> Focus on infill projects and redevelopment of underutilized sites as well as mixed-use projects.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Redevelopment (infill properties) that maintains architectural integrity"
- "Focus on redevelopment and infill along strip mall areas (along Market and Catoctin Streets)"
- "Pedestrian-scaled retail (accessible street-front)"
- "Interesting mix of shops/restaurants"
- "A town where you can shop for 75 percent of needs"
- "Don't allow more "Sheetz-type" development"
- "Avoid Sheetz-type shopping center (Leesburg Park)"

- "The town should support commercial infill at existing commercial centers to achieve a consistent urban image and provide additional shopping opportunities."
- "Infill development should complement existing development."
- "Site design and architectural treatment of infill should complement adjacent uses while reflecting the overall character of the community."
- "Infill should be consistent with the capacity of the town to provide adequate public infrastructure to serve the new use."
- "Consider properties fronting on Fort Evans Road inside the bypass (between East Market Street and the Route 15 Bypass) for commercial revitalization or redevelopment opportunities."

2. Theme: Encourage more commercial development and high-tech, high-quality employers to locate in town, particularly around the airport.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Increase high tech businesses in downtown and airport"
- "Airport as an economic development engine, with adjacent development to include office, industrial, and perhaps a college campus"
- "Support for commercial development around airport"
- "Make town attractive for high quality employers"
- "Better and higher paying jobs"
- "High tech jobs for residents"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Promote a mixture of employment uses around the airport, including research and development, light industry, and other uses supportive of airport operations."
- "The town encourages development of complementary employment uses at and around the Leesburg Airport to obtain full economic benefit of the facility.

3. Theme: Achieve neighborhood diversity through a mix of housing types, prices, ages and cultures.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Provide better mix, style, and price range of housing"
- "Transform neighborhoods allow greater diversity in ages, incomes, cultures, family types (mix of housing types/prices)"
- "Live, work, play; multi-use; senior living in downtown"

- "Maintain an annual average residential dwelling unit type mix of 50 percent single-family detached, 30 percent townhouse, and 20 percent multi-family, or as close thereto as possible through the rezoning, preliminary plat, and final plat review process."
- "To provide decent, safe and sanitary housing of all types."
- "Preserve and enhance the character and scale of the Town's traditional historic development pattern: Provide neo-traditional development design features in subdivision and building design (grid street pattern, small front yards, alleys, sidewalks, office over retail, residences over commercial, etc.), mix of uses (residential with commercial and office), scale (compact, pedestrian-friendly siting), and architectural design (traditional architecture featuring brick and wood materials complementary to the architecture in the Old and Historic District)."

4. Theme: Collaborate with the county on planning for the UGA and annex land for non-residential development.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "County and Town need to agree on a plan for UGA"
- "Collaborate with the county on parks and open space, and quarry south of Route 7"
- "Examine whether growth is desirable for town"
- "Annex land west of 267 (airport) and create a non-residential buffer"
- "Annex Urban Growth Area to build commercial tax base"
- "West of Airport/east of Greenway property annex and zone for no residential"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town should exercise significant influence over development in its Urban Growth Area and participate actively in the review of development proposed in the Urban Growth Area and surrounding areas of strategic interest to the town."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Locate a park and ride at the intersection of the Dulles Greenway and Battlefield Parkway; provide rail and bus service as well as automobile and bicycle accessibility.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Transit up Greenway to Battlefield Parkway transit park and ride"
- "Mass transit park and ride to be located at the intersection of Dulles Greenway and Battlefield Parkway"
- "Mixed-use, high-density transit stop (similar in size and density to Moorefield Station) should be located south of town along Dulles Greenway"
- "Park and ride lot should be on the outskirts of town and designed for multimodal use (bikes, bus, car, etc.)"
- "Encourage HOV/ride share; park and ride"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "This interchange area [Battlefield Parkway and the Dulles Greenway] should accommodate intermodal transfer functions, beginning with a major park and ride facility in connection with commuter bus service on the Greenway."

6. <u>Theme:</u> Improve streetscape to complement and provide a smooth transition to the historic district with buried utilities, street trees, sidewalks and lighting.

- "Establish visual gateway to town, historic downtown."
- "Unclutter downtown (signs, wires, etc.)"
- "Aesthetic environment including underground utilities"
- "Develop streetscape plan (landscaping/sidewalks/landscaping)"

- "Create a more uniform/tailored look on East Market Street commercial (street trees, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping in median)"
- "Improve commercial streetscapes and architectural standards for development to compliment historic district"

- "Redevelopment in these areas [arterial commercial areas] should be compatible
 with adjacent residential and commercial uses and provide an appropriate
 transition to the Old and Historic District."
- "Locating neighborhood retail centers in residential areas requires special attention to siting, building design, landscaping, parking, pedestrian/automobile access, and safety to make them compatible with adjacent residences."
- "To maintain the historic integrity and ambiance of the town through appropriate land uses, scale, design, and architectural elements."
- "The town should promote continued physical improvement of downtown through landscaping, sign control and other public and private investments."

7. <u>Theme:</u> Ensure development at town gateways is carefully considered in terms of aesthetics.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Mindful of all gateways (7 West, 15 North, 15 South, Greenway) into town"
- "Establish visual gateway to town, historic downtown"
- "Protect all entrances into town"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Ensure that the Town's gateways distinguish the town as a quality, historic community, which champions environmental beauty and high caliber development."
- 8. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage more pedestrian-friendly shopping and retail variety instead of boilerplate franchise development with poor vehicular circulation and garish color schemes that detracts from Leesburg's character.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Pedestrian-scaled retail (accessible street-front)"
- "Interesting mix of shops/restaurants"
- "A town where you can shop for 75 percent of needs"
- "Don't allow more "Sheetz-type" development"
- "Avoid Sheetz-type shopping center (Leesburg Park)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "New commercial centers should provide for adequate and appropriate parking, loading facilities, traffic movement, and pedestrian safety."

- "Community commercial centers should be developed as major social and economic focal points for surrounding residential developments."
- "Community commercial centers may include convenience shopping as well as a mixture of comparison and specialty shopping opportunities."
- "The town should support commercial growth where it will have a positive economic and community effect."

9. <u>Theme:</u> Improve downtown parking with aesthetically pleasing, multi-use parking garages (include retail component to hide facades).

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Improve parking in downtown historic district"
- "Unobtrusive but significant parking"
- "Parking (garages that don't look like garages)"
- "Structured parking with retail is the way to go (ex. Town Hall expansion)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town should ensure the provision of adequate parking facilities to serve downtown commercial and employment uses."

10. <u>Theme:</u> Require developers to offset all costs for new development (schools, parks, infrastructure, etc.).

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Cash contributions (from developers) for parks and schools"
- "Require developers to pay for more infrastructure"
- "Build proffers as developers build"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town should consider means of balancing types of land use, zoning, and development through an appropriate combination of regulation and incentives based on consideration of the fiscal consequences of land use and development patterns."

11. Theme: Make town greener; plant more trees.

- "Greener downtown/historic district all of town"
- "Greener and protection of trees"
- "Provide high landscaping standards and street trees"
- "Protect the environment and plant trees"
- "Maintain trees; encourage additional quality trees"

 "Town should subsidize the maintenance and replacement of trees; tree ordinance"

12. Theme: Promote building on a gridded system; prohibit cul-de-sacs.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Provide better road connectivity/reduce cul-de-sacs"
- "No more cul-de-sacs/promote grid design"
- "Outlaw cul-de-sacs; strengthen grid system"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

 "The town should encourage the completion of dead end streets to complete the grid street system and improve the accessibility to potential infill development sites."

Group 1—Parks and Recreation

1. <u>Theme:</u> Preserve and protect existing open spaces, public and private parks in Leesburg and in Loudoun County.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Preserve open space"
- "Keep Olde Izaak Walton Park"
- "Preserve Festival Lakes and keep it green"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Maintain high quality facilities and programs."
- 2. <u>Theme:</u> Provide a full range of parks and open spaces, including the creation of pocket parks and open spaces for passive recreation, as well as new parks for active recreational facilities.

- "Pocket parks around town"
- "Community focal point, ex: gazebo, amphitheater, neighborhood green (open space, place to rest, people watch, etc.)" Site 1, Barber and Ross
- "Plan to build more "Freedom Parks" play fields for kids/all"
- "More green space, more green space, more green space"
- "Encourage public space as part of redevelopment"
- "Town purchase land for pocket parks (trees instead of new houses)"
- "Provide more passive recreation and open space"

- "The town will continue to expand and develop its park system."
- "The town intends to provide at least ten acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in accordance with the Virginia Outdoors Plan."
- "Leesburg should encourage the development of neighborhood and community parks in these areas through development proffers, donations, grants, and acquisitions to provide a uniform distribution of park sites throughout the Town."

2. <u>Theme:</u> Provide recreational programs and facilities for all ages and interests, including teenagers (teen centers), senior citizens (senior centers) and dog owners (dog parks).

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Create recreational facilities and programs for teens"
- "Provide dog parks at Shellhorn and other locations"
- "Develop quality and affordable recreation for all levels of the community (youth, elderly, etc.)"
- "Multi-generational living and recreation for all"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Areas for future program development, as staffing and facilities permit, include senior citizens, teens, and organized sports."
- "Facilities that need to be explored further as to need and feasibility include a senior citizen center, teen center..."
- "[Recreational program guidelines] Serve all elements in the community and be accessible to all."

3. <u>Theme:</u> Ensure that the sidewalk and trail system provides town- and region-wide connectivity to other trails, communities, and significant natural and community resources.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Connect Potomac Heritage to W&OD Trail"
- "Comprehensive network of trails (safe, multi-modal bike and pedestrian) town and county; for both leisure and errands"
- "Provide trails to access the Potomac River"

- "...Need to put in place an integrated network of pedestrian and bicycle routes to serve as both a recreational and an alternative transportation resource for the town's citizens. Such a network should provide safe and convenient links connecting neighborhoods with business areas, community facilities and open space."
- "Pedestrian/bike trails will be encouraged in new residential developments and must connect to the town greenways network and other trails whenever possible."

4. <u>Theme:</u> Construct a riverwalk along Tuscarora Creek to highlight its importance.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Make Tuscarora Creek an amenity in the downtown"
- "Riverwalk along Town Branch of Tuscarora Creek from historic district along Tuscarora Creek"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "To improve and enhance environmental quality, recreation, conservation and natural heritage."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Continue to improve Ida Lee Park with an outdoor pool and trail accessibility.

- "Develop trails, outdoor pool at Ida Lee"
- "Complete trails system for better access to Ida Lee Park"
- "Add outdoor pool to Ida Lee Park"

Group 2—Cultural Resources: Historic Resources

1. <u>Theme:</u> Expand the historic district and preserve historic sites, structures and landmarks located throughout Leesburg in order to maintain the town's historic character.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Extend historic character features and site design beyond the historic district along East Market and South King Street to Route 15 Bypass"
- "Expand historic district and authority of Board of Architectural Review beyond current scope"
- "Preserve the center of town and expand outside the old town"
- "Maintain historic landmarks (Log Cabin)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "A major goal of preservation in Leesburg is the acknowledgement and protection of existing a well as future districts, landmarks and archeological sites that represent Leesburg's past."
- "Landmarks, districts, and sites of historic, architectural or archeological significance shall be identified and protected."
- 2. <u>Theme:</u> Maintain the same architectural integrity and character as the historic district as redevelopment occurs adjacent to or around the historic district.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Redevelopment adjacent to historic district should be in character with historic district"
- "Encourage redevelopment and new development that complements and connects with the existing downtown rather than creating a separate and competing version of the downtown"
- 3. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage a mix of uses in the historic district and ensure sufficient parking to support these uses.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Encourage diversity of uses and better mix of uses in the historic district"
- "More diverse shops in historic district"
- "Improve parking in downtown historic district"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The character of the historic downtown area will be preserved while allowing it to remain as a viable residential, government, administrative, banking, office, service and specialty shopping area."

4. <u>Theme:</u> Improve streetscaping and the appearance of older buildings and neighborhoods in order to maintain the character of the historic district.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Improve the East Market Street corridor east of Dodona Manor, which should be redeveloped to look more like the historic district (special sidewalks, trees, building setbacks, design of parking areas)"
- "Improve commercial streetscapes and architectural standards for development to complement historic district"
- "Create façade improvement program to protect the historic character and integrity of the historic downtown"
- "System to fix older buildings in historic district, maintain integrity and character of Old and Historic District"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

 "Adaptive reuse of historic structures will be encouraged; any improvement or addition to historic structures or new construction on historic property should reinforce the historic character of the property."

5. Theme: Plant trees in order to promote the creation of tree canopy in the historic district.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Preserve the tree canopy in the district, and more of a tree canopy in new areas"
- "Preserve the northern approach into Leesburg (US 15) the openness of Morven Park and Ida Lee Park leading into the canopied blocks of historic houses between Union Cemetery and North Street"
- "Greener downtown/historic district all of town"
- "Plant more trees in the historic district"

Group 2—Urban Design

1. <u>Theme:</u> Preserve historic character of downtown, enhancing it with compatible infill, better property maintenance, and improved streetscapes.

- "Redevelopment (infill properties) that maintains architectural integrity"
- "'Quaint vs. shabby' in historic district and older parts of town—Town fix up shabby property and place lien"
- "Preserve the architecture and design character of the district as a whole"
- "Improve facades of historic houses north of the new courts complex development (for example, with façade improvement incentives) and add landscaping to the side of the complex to offset the adverse-e impact of the development"

- "Fix street appeal of Town Hall at Wirt and Market streets"
- "Keep out unattractive signs and sign clutter"
- "Keep historic district viable, clean, healthy, and inviting"
- "Encourage pedestrian friendly streets, with brick or brick-like sidewalks, trees, human-scaled lights"

• "The town will strive to maintain its visual variety and unique character by encouraging a mix of development types and architectural styles that are generally compatible with Leesburg's historic small town character."

2. Theme: Protect historic resources outside of downtown and use them to influence new development.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Expand historic district and authority of Board of Architectural Review beyond current scope"
- "Expand from historic district and create new districts beyond downtown"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Identify and document historic and archeological resources and conservation areas throughout Leesburg."

3. <u>Theme:</u> Make new development human-scaled, of good architectural design—compatible with the town's character—and quality construction, fronting on well-designed streetscapes.

- "Demand architecturally superior design and materials in new construction"
- "Set high development standards and adhere to them"
- "Rezone or beautify (higher design standards)"
- "No more cookie cutter developments"
- "Provide high landscaping standards and street trees"
- "Equal consideration to aesthetics of affordable housing areas—similar to downtown"
- "Improve commercial streetscapes and architectural standards for development to complement historic district"
- "Encourage the construction of buildings close to the street rather than being setback at a distance from the street"
- "Limit development heights within the Route 15 Bypass to be compatible with existing development; no high-rise development"

- "The town will encourage quality urban design through modification of zoning and subdivision regulations, including flexible design standards, incentives and bonuses."
- "The town and VDOT will cooperate to assure that engineering standards allow consistency between the existing town scale and the scale of future development."
- 4. <u>Theme:</u> Create a sense of place with gateways, identifiable boundaries, protected views, and new development that reflects Leesburg's architectural traditions.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Downtown ambience uptown/throughout town"
- "See sense of place with identifiable boundaries (i.e., sidewalk cafes) where people can meet and little parks"
- "Keep the single-family houses on Memorial Drive, placed close to the street and with an alley behind"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "The major entry ways into Leesburg will be identified, protected and enhanced in order to preserve the natural setting and appearance of the community."
- 5. <u>Theme:</u> Improve existing and create better new public spaces—streetscapes, green areas, gateways, river corridors.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Establish high quality streetscape design standards"
- "People friendly signs throughout town and gateways"
- "Have town outside bypass feel a part of the town (i.e., location of welcome sign)"
- "Mindful of all gateways (7 West, 15 North, 15 South, Greenway) into town"
- "Greener and protection of trees"
- "Make Tuscarora Creek an amenity in the downtown"
- "Remove riprap on Plaza Street"

- "The town will take a leadership role to ensure that new capital projects are positive additions to the community's heritage."
- 6. <u>Theme:</u> Special areas: historic district and northern entrance preserved, East Market Street and other commercial areas redeveloped to be more like the historic district, preserve/improve views of vantage points (Home Depot, Catoctin Mountain)

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Create a more uniform/tailored look on East Market Street commercial (street trees, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping in median)"
- "Preserve the northern approach into Leesburg (US 15)—the openness of Morven Park and Ida Lee Park leading into the canopied blocks of historic houses between Union Cemetery and North Street"
- "Redevelop the commercial shopping centers, as buildings and sites are currently designed, along East Market Street (Leesburg Plaza) and South King Street (Virginia Village)"
- "Preserve scenic views from high spots in town"
- "Remove orange roof at Home Depot"

Group 2—Cultural Resources: Views

1. <u>Theme:</u> Preserve existing viewsheds and improved gateways at the entrances to Leesburg and to the historic district.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Preserve existing viewsheds"
- "Establish visual gateway to town, historic downtown"
- "Gateway Viewsheds"
- "Preserve scenic views from high spots in town"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Enhance the town's aesthetic character through preservation of significant natural features and vistas through landscaping and tree planting in new developments."
- "Identify and inventory visual resources and develop measures to protect them."

2. Theme: Restrict building heights and consider architectural design to ensure compatibility with existing development and to allow for scenic views throughout town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Keep out high-rise buildings"
- "Limit development heights within the Route 15 Bypass to be compatible with existing development; no high-rise development"

3. Theme: Consider aesthetics of development located at high points throughout town.

- "Remove orange roof at Home Depot"
- "Muted colors for commercial roofs (e.g., not like Home Depot's orange roof)"

Group 2—Cultural Resources: Arts

1. <u>Theme:</u> Develop new cultural facilities and events to enhance quality of life and economic development.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Provide cultural arts facilities and events to maintain an attractive physical environment and quality of life"
- "Enhance Leesburg's position as a tourist, conference, and commercial center for Loudoun County"
- "Increasing a venue of arts organizations, galleries, theaters, movie houses, restaurants, and cafes. This will contribute to the town's economy with entertainment and displays of art while improving the quality of life"
- "Providing cultural opportunities improves the town's quality of life by providing intellectual stimulation, educational opportunities, and new and different experiences to residents and visitors"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town will encourage the development of a central open market incorporating elements from farmers markets, antique fairs and craft fairs."

2. <u>Theme:</u> Provide cultural resources and events supportive of the town's diverse population.

- "Provide teen centers"
- "Provide a senior center"
- "Build a low impact amphitheater at Ida Lee for Bluemont"
- "Build a performing arts center"
- "Provide foreign films at the Talley Ho Theater."
- "Preserve gallery night and expand the offerings"
- "Provide a passive park in the southern part of the town"
- "Providing cultural opportunities improves the town's quality of life by providing intellectual stimulation, educational opportunities, and new and different experiences to residents"

Group 3—Demographics

1. <u>Theme:</u> Provide higher wage jobs, more affordable workforce housing (especially for seniors), and related services in order to provide a more balanced community and to reduce the cost of living for all residents.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Encourage affordable senior housing"
- "Promote a realistic jobs/housing relationship for low and moderate income/affordable quality housing"
- "Place where retired people and others can still afford to live"
- "Create higher income (living wage) job opportunities"
- "Community that honors all age groups with housing, recreation, and community involvement opportunities for multiple generations"
- "Plan for a balanced community (jobs, recreation, houses, other amenities, etc.)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "...A need to provide an adequate level of human services and incomesupplementing programs for these elements [single-mother households] of the population."
- "To preserve and enhance Leesburg's role as Loudoun County's principal government, commercial and cultural center and a major residential center."
- 2. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage and provide activities and opportunities for all residents of all ages, and especially for minorities and teenagers.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Multi-generational living and recreation for all"
- "Address needs of diverse population (Hispanic and others)"
- "Provide affordable activities for teens (i.e. Teen Center, summer programs, job opportunities)"
- 3. <u>Theme:</u> Involve government more with citizens; similarly, involve citizens more in the community as a whole.

- "Engaged and active citizenry"
- "Encourage public activity/interaction sense of community"
- "Volunteer network"
- "Town should communicate better with residents (Mt. Tavistock)"
- "Increase citizen awareness and participation in planning process"

4. <u>Theme:</u> Consider the fiscal impacts (residential vs. nonresidential) when determining additional housing needs.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Restrict residential development"
- "No more new developments"
- "Stop housing near airport runway area"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

 "The town should consider means of balancing types of land use, zoning, and development through an appropriate combination of regulation and incentives based on consideration of the fiscal consequences of land use and development patterns."

Group 3—Housing

1. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage affordable housing for all ages, incomes, and in a variety of housing types.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Affordable for all"
- "Greater variety in style, price ranges"
- "Housing opportunities for all ages"
- "Diversity neighborhoods—age, income, culture, family type, housing, etc."

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "The town will encourage the provision of a wide range of housing opportunities by type, density, and price to meet the needs of all residents."
- "The town will encourage housing development within the neighborhood framework, utilizing, where appropriate, community facilities such as schools, parks and commercial activities as focal points for development of new residential neighborhoods."
- "The town will encourage additional elderly housing through developer incentives."
- "Encourage innovations in housing so that the demand may be met by a greater variety of type, design and layout of dwellings and more creative use of land and open space."

2. Theme: Do not allow for housing on land zoned for nonresidential purposes in order to encourage nonresidential growth to support the town's tax base.

- "No more housing in commercial districts"
- "Slow down of residential growth until the number of businesses catch up"
- "Don't rezone commercial to residential"

• "Encourage growth which decreases the residential property taxes to less than 60 percent of all real estate taxes."

3. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage the incorporation of residential development into commercial infill projects.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Encourage mixed-use development such as commercial on the first floor and residential on the second floor"
- "Housing as infill inside bypass"
- "Need more downtown residential—attract different business mix"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Residential infill in the downtown area will be encouraged."

Group 3—Public Services and Facilities

1. <u>Theme:</u> Provide all students with a comprehensive and top quality educational experience.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Provision of a 'well-rounded' educational experience for all students"
- "School system to be considered top 5% in the nation"
- "Properly located schools—neighborhood schools where needed instead of just where land is available"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "The town will encourage appropriate expansion of county facilities and encourage their location within the town limits."
- "The town will encourage housing development within the neighborhood framework, utilizing where appropriate, community facilities such as schools, parks and commercial activities as focal points for development of new residential neighborhoods." (from Housing Element)

2. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage public/citizen civic pride and a sense of community through more community events, leisure activities for all, etc.—increased citizen interaction.

- "Encourage public activity/interaction to help create a sense of community"
- "Community involvement opportunities for all ages"

3. <u>Theme:</u> Encourage a more responsive relationship between the town government and the citizens, particularly regarding questions of growth of the town.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Create a more cohesive community through town meetings, more responsive town government, and an increase in community convenience"
- "Focus on citizens' good, not developers"
- "Increase citizen awareness and participation in the planning process"

4. Theme: Provide a safe and secure town for its citizens.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Improve police presence"
- "Provide cameras for problem public areas to stretch enforcement personnel"
- "Reduce crime—future of gangs"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Encourage the county to provide cost effective fire-rescue services, response times, and facility locations."
- "Provide cost effective police protection services to maintain or reduce the current rate of serious crimes and other violations of the laws of the town."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Maintain the current high level of curbside service and the 25% recycling goal.

Supporting citizen comments:

• "Implement comprehensive recycling program (residential and commercial)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Increase opportunities for recycling."
- "Maintain the existing level of service of solid waste collection (in terms of frequency of collection and growth of proportion of recyclables) at the lowest possible cost."

6. Theme: Establish a stormwater management utility.

Supporting citizen comments:

• "Increase funding of water, stormwater drainage, and sewer infrastructure"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

"Promote well—designed, attractive community facilities."

• "Provide for necessary capital improvements through a long—range planning process."

Group 3—Urban Growth Area (UGA)

1. Theme: Annex land into the town in order to allow for the growth of the commercial tax base.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Annex UGA to build commercial tax base"
- "Annex land west of 267 (airport) and east of Greenway property, create a nonresidential buffer"

Supporting Goals and Policies form the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Extension of sewer and water service by the Town of Leesburg to areas outside the town limits will be grounds for annexation of those areas."
- "Development within Leesburg's UGA will be served by public sewer and water provided by the Town of Leesburg at the town's option."
- "Town infrastructure shall be extended into the urban growth area only where property to be served in the urban growth area is adjacent to developed property within town limits."

2. Theme: Do not annex land into the town—instead concentrate growth as infill in areas where infrastructure exists.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Don't expand town limits"
- "Focus growth in developed areas and maximize use of existing infrastructure"

Supporting Goals and Policies form the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Development within Leesburg's UGA will be served by public sewer and water provided by the Town of Leesburg at the town's option."
- "Town infrastructure shall be extended into the urban growth area only where property to be served in the urban growth area is adjacent to developed property within town limits."

3. <u>Theme:</u> Develop mixed-use centers, (both with and without a residential and community facility component) at the perimeter of the town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

• "The area west of Evergreen Mill Road should contain mixed-use developments; schools, libraries and community centers should be at the heart of these developments"

• "Village Centers should be located at the perimeter of the town boundaries (incl. retail, bio/high tech firms, offices, and residences)"

Supporting Goals and Policies form the 1997 Town Plan:

 "Aside from areas where employment uses are preferred, the town encourages mixed-use development in the UGA between the Route 7 and Dulles Greenway corridors."

4. Theme: Preserve recreation areas, the rural landscape, and environmentally sensitive areas should be preserved at the edge of town.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "The area to the north and west of Leesburg should remain/be preserved as they are now"
- "Preserve parks...Red Rocks, Morven Park and O'Connor properties as parks"
- "Preserve floodplain areas from Potomac to Route 15 as open space"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Techniques such as clustering and density bonuses should be employed to protect the natural character of the greenbelt at the edges of the UGA."
- "Generous setbacks (not less than setbacks required by current ordinances) and extensive landscaping should be employed in any development along major transportation corridors such as Routes 7 and 15 to maintain scenic views and identifiable entrances to the urbanized portion of the UGA."
- "Protection of the western ridge line and the 100-year floodplains of Goose Creek, Sycolin Creek, Big Spring and Limestone Branch as visual features that define the character of the Leesburg Area."
- "The western ridgeline and the Goose and Sycolin Creek 100-year flood plains will be treated as permanent greenbelts around the town."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Improve the transportation system (including mass transit) to accommodate growth in the town and UGA.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Mixed-use center in Greenway corridor; high-density/mixed-use transit stop along Greenway; mass transit park and ride"
- "Build approved transportation networks (ex. Crosstrails Boulevard and Battlefield Parkway) to at least keep pace with projected growth"

- "The town strongly supports extension of bus and rail service to Leesburg in the Dulles Greenway corridor."
- "Upgrading of Route 643 and relocation of Route 653 will be priority transportation improvements sought by the town and county."

 "The town encourages location of a park-and-ride facility at an intersection Dulles Greenway interchange with Battlefield Parkway." 	n of the

Group 4—Economic Development

1. Theme: Attract businesses that will diversify the tax base and reduce the residential tax burden.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Encourage small and medium light manufacturing businesses"
- "Promote quality realistic positive economic development that fits the town fiscally and aesthetically"
- "Reduce the tax burden on residential properties"
- "Retain and expand a diversified economic structure and employment base"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Ensure adequate and suitable land is available for commercial and industrial uses."
- "Retain and expand a diversified economic structure and employment base."
- "Sustain the town's fiscal health through a diverse and expanding commercial tax base."
- "Encourage growth, which decreases the residential property taxes to less than 60 percent of all real estate taxes."

2. Theme: Provide higher wage jobs by attracting high tech businesses to the town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Create higher income wage jobs"
- "Encourage high tech jobs for residents"
- "Plan for high tech advancements"

3. Theme: Provide a business friendly community.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Develop a business friendly community"
- "Mandatory fast start program for new-businesses"
- "Promote atmosphere to retain old business and attract new businesses"
- "Make process easier for new businesses to locate in Leesburg.
- "Insure diversity of businesses"
- "Encourage minority business participation"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Create a positive business environment through an efficient development review, and the granting of permits, a customer service orientation, and greater interaction with the business community."

4. Theme: Expand tourism as an economic component.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Maintaining, and improving the historical and physical assets of the community that appeal to visitors"
- "Develop a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate a variety of events"
- "One of the more emphasized goals for the future of tourism in Leesburg is being recognized and promoted as a center of arts and entertainment district in the region"
- "Capitalize on the town's it's natural beauty, historic character, extensive recreation, cultural, shopping, and dining opportunities are a natural draw for both visitors and residents"
- "Redevelopment in the downtown's crescent district (includes the Barber and Ross site), the metro extension to the region, improved walking and biking pathways, and expansion of the arts would also make Leesburg more attractive to tourism and relocating businesses"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Enhance Leesburg's position as a tourist, conference, and commercial center for Loudoun County and the region."

5. Theme: Provide for growth of the airport.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Continue growth and development at the vicinity of the airport"
- "Promotes light industrial and office as complementary employment uses at and around the airport to obtain the full economic benefit of the facility"
- "It is not 'smart' to continue to permit residential uses adjacent to the airport due to noise and safety issues"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Assure continued growth and vitality of the airport through compatible development in the vicinity of the airport, as well as promoting functional improvements and cost effective development within the airport."
- "The town will promote development regulations and developments that further the efficient use of the airport in areas contiguous to, and within the noise contours of the airport."

6. <u>Theme:</u> Attract appropriate business use whose design is compatible to the town's historic character and economic vision.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

• "Encourage more commercial development"

- "Market upper floor residential in and outside the downtown core"
- "Complete and connect a town wide greenway system as an economic tool to attract new citizens and tourists to the community"
- "Begin assembling property for business development and expansion"
- "Incorporate mixed-use districts and higher densities particularly on the cores to downtown"
- "Provide for development along route 7 with light industrial"
- "Focus on light industry types of uses on Catoctin Circle"
- "The town should provide 75 percent of your needs"

- "Retain and expand a diversified economic structure and employment base."
- "Enhance Leesburg's position as a tourist, conference, and commercial center for Loudoun County and the region."
- "Promote the viability of the historic downtown business district."
- "Ensure adequate and suitable land is available for commercial and industrial uses."
- "Maintain an attractive physical environment and quality of life in the town."

7. Theme: Increase cultural and arts opportunities throughout the town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Increasing a venue of arts organizations, galleries, theaters, movie houses, restaurants, and cafes. This will contribute to the town's economy with entertainment and displays of art while improving the quality of life"
- "Provide a cultural arts center downtown"
- "Develop a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate a variety of events"
- "Have a vibrant place and destination"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "The town will encourage the development of a central open market incorporating elements from farmers markets, antique fairs and craft fairs."
- "The town will undertake a leadership role in economic development through specific programs, policies and activities recommended by the economic development commission."

8. Theme: Provide appropriate educational opportunities for citizens.

- "Providing specialized programs to meet the needs of area employers and a changing economy"
- "Enriching the attractiveness of the region to potential employers and employees through educational offerings"

- "Advancing the use of technology in the region"
- "Attract a 4-year college to the town"
- 9. <u>Theme:</u> Special areas: The broader notion of community development and quality of life must be part of the Leesburg economic development potential when discussing cultural, business, residential, educational, use and design.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Re-opening of the Tally Ho Theater" (Cultural)
- "The Loudoun County Courts Ground, and the Town Green" (Cultural)
- "First Friday Gallery Walk" (Cultural)
- "Future Town Hall expansion with first floor retail" (Commercial)
- "Catoctin Circle / Route 7 as mixed use commercial" (Commercial)
- "Barber and Ross redevelopment site" (Commercial) (Residential)
- "Leesburg Plaza future redevelopment" (Commercial)
- "Leegate Development" (Commercial)
- "Development of the Crescent District" (Commercial) (Residential) (Cultural)

Group 4—Transportation

1. Themes: Improve interconnectivity of roadways, walkways, and bike paths within the town's residential and commercial areas.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Provide walk able communities between sectors"
- "Provide better road connectivity, reduce cul-de sacs"
- "Provide a series of interconnecting paths to connect neighborhoods"
- "Complete incomplete sidewalk connections"
- "Complete trail system to make Leesburg more pedestrian friendly"
- "Keep planned thru-streets connected" "No dead ends"
- "Complete street network"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Providing a safe and efficient transportation system integrating automobiles pedestrian and bicycle traffic in all sectors without degrading the current system."
- 2. <u>Themes:</u> Design roads that are complementary to the town's historic character, provide traffic calming, and are human scaled and be aesthetically pleasing.

- "The town lacks a continuous street network"
- "The town needs to accommodate trucking with as little disruption to residential and shopping areas as possible"
- "Provide people friendly street signage"

- "The transportation network should be redeveloped to be compatible with the historic district"
- "Keep road design to a scale that would be aesthetically pleasing"
- "Traffic Calming in residential areas"
- Protect residential neighborhoods from cut through traffic"
- "Don't build any more roads improve what we have"
- "The town should provide paths for use of pedestrians, bicycles, and wheelchairs associated with existing and new road networks"

- "Providing a safe and efficient transportation system integrating automobiles." pedestrian and bicycle traffic in all sectors without degrading the current system.
- "Street standards must be refined to address the needs of the town in terms of aesthetics, function, and safety."
- "Through truck traffic will be discouraged in the old and historic district, including Morven Park Road, and Edwards Ferry Road."
- "The town will encourage a grid street pattern throughout the jurisdiction."

3. Theme: Provide an appropriate public transportation system.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "The town should reduce the amount of commuter traffic in the town and region by providing an effective, efficient, inexpensive, and convenient transit system in the greater Leesburg area"
- "The town should partner with the County to make the bus routes more convenient and practical for commuters"
- "The town should continue to work with the County to improve bus service through route changes as necessary, expanded schedules, additional buses, provision of convenient and safe bus stops, and increased marketing"
- "The town should continue to support the transportation system to serve the public and to accommodate special needs groups in the community, such as the disabled, low-income and elderly"
- "Rail/Metro/Bus Rapid transit must be supported. The 7/15 bypass should considered for a metro station"

- "Plan for and construct integrated alternative transportation modes including mass transit, pedestrian paths, and bikeways thru right-of way acquisition."
- "Develop a safe and cost efficient street and road network, which separates traffic by function and classification"
- "The Town will consider construction of pedestrian paths and bikeway connection to public parks. Schools, the W&OD Trail & C&O Canal."

4. <u>Theme:</u> Provide the appropriate parking systems/opportunities throughout the town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Acquire additional lands to establish new municipal on-street parking facilities"
- "Garage parking should be developed over existing street level municipal parking facilities. (Liberty Street)"
- "Office, commercial, and residential uses should be a component of all structured parking when applicable"
- "Underground public and private parking whenever possible"
- "The town should encourage short-term on street parking wherever feasible in the downtown"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Reserve, acquire & facilitate construction of commuter parking in developed and developing areas of town..."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Design appropriate pedestrian and bicycle transportation system throughout the town.

Supporting Citizen Comments:

- "Leesburg should have a very effective, extensive, and heavily used sidewalk and trail network"
- "Commercial areas of town, namely E. Market street and the eastern section of the corporate limits pedestrian networks and connections to the neighborhoods from commercial districts are for the most part, lacking and should be improved"
- "Major thoroughfares within Leesburg should accommodate bicycle travel along with motorized vehicular travel"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "The Town will consider construction of pedestrian paths and bikeway connection to public parks. Schools, the W&OD Trail & C& O Canal."
- "Plan for and construct integrated alternative transportation modes including mass transit, pedestrian paths, and bikeways thru right-of way acquisition."

6. <u>Theme:</u> Develop the airport's potential as part of the town's transportation network.

- "Continue growth and development at the vicinity of the airport"
- "It is not 'smart' to continue to permit residential uses adjacent to the airport due to noise and safety issues"
- "Keep viability of the airport"
- "Link rail to the airport"

- "Create a Greenway exit at the airport"
- 7. <u>Theme:</u> Special areas: truck traffic and through traffic in residential areas, Crosstrail Boulevard, Battlefield Parkway, congestion on Route 7 east and west of town, coordination of traffic signals throughout the town, congestion on US 15 Bypass and Business.

- "Remove truck traffic and through traffic from residential areas"
- "Build Crosstrail Boulevard"
- "Complete Battlefield Parkway"
- "Reduce congestion on Route 7 east and west of town."
- "Improve coordination of traffic signals throughout the town"
- "Reduce congestion on US 15 Bypass and Business"

Group 5—Natural Resources

1. Theme: Establish criteria to delineate a boundary between the areas of the landscape for which human use and alteration is appropriate, and those areas best left to nature or designated for restoration. Develop a methodology for implementing an open space preservation and restoration system for ecologically valuable lands. Water resources, topography and vegetation should provide the framework for this system. These open space areas should become a part of the town's green infrastructure.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Better define 'open space' types and values in context of Leesburg's urban environment"
- "Preserve the Potomac shore"
- "Honor natural environment/systems"
- "Create and preserve wildlife corridors into/out of town limits"
- "Tuscarora Creek/Town Branch Corridor—town pay attention to opportunities ..."
- "Stream corridor connections (e.g. Isaak Walton)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Identify and preserve usable open space."
- "To preserve and enhance natural resources to the extent practical, consistent with the character of the greater Leesburg area."
- "Preserve and use stream corridors for recreation, open space and flood control."
- "Preserve vegetation and sensitive environmental features through the development process."
- "Existing topography, tree cover, and other environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., streams, wetlands) should be used as key site planning elements in determining road layout, location, and buffering of different land uses, stormwater management systems, and utility lines."

2. <u>Theme:</u> Develop an environmental assessment process to determine the impacts of development proposals and cost—effective mitigation measures.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Do not permit environmentally unsafe development"
- "Enforcement of environmental regulations—re-evaluate appropriate mechanisms, citizen role"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "To assure that development respects environmental factors that affect the quality of life of residents of the greater Leesburg area."

• "Develop an environmental review checklist for use by the town and developers in identifying potential environmental impacts of public and private development proposals."

3. <u>Theme:</u> Prioritize natural resources management recommendations by topic, emphasizing those issues that can be affected by land use decisions.

Supporting citizen comments:

• "Align town goals with larger watershed goals"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "To preserve and enhance natural resources to the extent practical, consistent with the character of the greater Leesburg area."

4. <u>Theme:</u> Implement environmental policies through the development review process using tools like minimum impact development and conservation subdivision design techniques.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Implement low impact design & existing design standards conflict with conservation goals" {this citation is followed by a list of factors, pros and cons, and barriers}
- "Enforcement of environmental regulations—re-evaluate appropriate mechanisms, citizen role"
- "Make use of LID (low-impact design) techniques and conservation design"
- "Low impact conservation techniques to impact design"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Preserve vegetation and sensitive environmental features through the development process."
- "To become a recognized community leader in Loudoun County, and the region, for progressive and responsible environmental policy, regulation, and practice."

5. <u>Theme:</u> Evaluate the environmental recommendations of the Loudoun County Revised General Plan to determine how applicable they are to Leesburg in order to make the two plans as compatible as practical.

- "Opportunity to collaborate with the county on parks and open space, and quarry south of Route 7"
- "Coordinating with County on open space and environmental issues" {this citation is followed by a list of factors, pros and cons, and barriers}

6. <u>Theme:</u> Develop a system to measure the progress made toward achieving the town's environmental objectives.

Supporting citizen comment:

• "Lack of adequate metric, not knowing when we've reached a goal"

7. Theme: Assess all town policies and ordinances to determine whether they conflict with the environmental policies of the plan.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "EMS—type (environmental management system) process to analyze town regulations and roles to realize goals"
- "Town design standards conflict with conservation goals"
- "Opportunity to review and improve standards"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town staff will work with the Environmental Advisory Commission to revise town ordinances as they relate to this Element of the Town Plan."

8. <u>Theme:</u> Establish policies for the restoration and protection of Leesburg's water resources, such as the Tuscarora Creek and Town Branch.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Opportunities along Tuscarora Creek" {this citation is followed by a list of factors, pros and cons, and barriers}
- "Preserve land within stream corridor overlay"
- "Lack of adequate stormwater management infrastructure—washouts, erosion ..."
- "Lower impact development, ... Minimal runoff from parking lots"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Meet or exceed all applicable water quality standards."
- "Preserve and use natural drainage ways wherever possible for stormwater management and non—point pollution control."
- "Minimize damage to natural areas where development occurs."

9. <u>Theme:</u> Restore natural vegetation and forest canopy for wildlife habitat, scenery, and microclimate control wherever conditions permit.

- "Concentrate on tree canopy"
- "Maintain trees; encourage additional quality trees"
- "Protect the environment and plant trees"

- "Preserve any ecological communities of high environmental value (e.g., communities with rare or endangered species, mature forest communities, stream valley corridors, high—quality wetland communities)."
- "Encourage restoration of degraded natural areas and enhancement of existing natural areas to enable these areas to maximize their potential environmental value."
- "Preserve existing trees in developing areas to the extent practicable, and if not possible, require mitigation measures."

10. Theme: Establish a street tree program for the town.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Greener downtown/Historic District—All of town"
- "Encourage planting a diversity of tree species that are insect and disease tolerant"
- "Town should subsidize the maintenance and replacement of trees; tree ordinance"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

- "Encourage <u>everyone</u> to participate in and/or support a new Leesburg Tree Management Program."
- "Strengthen town ordinances to require developer/builders to provide more and better quality tree plantings."

11. <u>Theme:</u> Designate a green belt around the perimeter of the town to help give the town a sense of place distinct from the rest of Loudoun County.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Green buffer around town and county"
- "Greenbelt edge around Leesburg"

12. <u>Theme:</u> Protect residents from unacceptable levels of aircraft and highway noise.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Noise from bypass, industrial uses, in historic district" {Lists influencing factors}
- "Airport threat to noise pollution"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "Prohibit or control residential and other noise—sensitive development in the areas of potential noise pollution (e.g., surrounding Leesburg Municipal Airport, Route 15 Bypass)."

• "Residential development adjacent to major highways should include appropriate noise attenuation measures when warranted."

13. <u>Theme:</u> Adopt site design and building construction measures to reduce energy consumption.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Use of town code to encourage and promote energy conservation/green building"
- "Embrace low-impact design and energy efficient architecture (green buildings)"
- "Lower impact development, build to LEED standards ..."

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town encourages energy—efficient site planning, landscaping and building design, and use of solar and other alternative energy sources."

14. <u>Theme:</u> Locate complementary land uses to develop walkable communities, encourage fewer trips, or combined trips to reduce energy consumption and improve air quality.

Supporting citizen comments:

- "Leader in regional air quality, integrate into other Town goals"
- "Improve air quality"
- "Please do something about air quality (not just ozone but the other pollution too)"

Supporting Goals and Policies from the 1997 Town Plan:

• "The town encourages employment opportunities near residential areas to reduce energy consumption and air quality impacts associated with commuting."

15. <u>Theme:</u> Maintain an aggressive recycling program to reduce the town's contribution to the solid waste stream.

Supporting citizen comments:

• "Implement comprehensive recycling program (residential and commercial)"

- "Increase opportunities for recycling."
- "The town considers landfilling to be the "last resort" means of waste disposal. To this end, the town is committed to ongoing investigation of feasible alternative solid waste management technologies."